

Unfortunately the fears of many people about Broadcast ownership (too many stations owned by one company) has raised its ugly head in a decision by Sinclair Broadcasting's Executive Officer. This forcing of stations owned by him, to air a broadcast approved by him, represents the worst we came to fear from loose FCC rules and we now will be forced to submit to this kind of partizanship; especially if you can afford it. Those who cannot afford it do not have the same opportunity and that was the crux of the previous rulings, allowing an equal and fair response to allegations and untruths. Shame on the FCC, Shame on Sinclair and their CEO and Sinclair's Board of Directors.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.